

# MAGNIFICENT WYCOMBE WHIP TATTERED TOOTING

by ARGUS

Wycombe Wanderers 2 Tooting and Mitcham 1

**T**HAT old cup magic was working overtime at Loakes Park on Saturday. It produced a really magnificent Wycombe Wanderers performance which had their supporters bursting with pride and two "unknown" debut forwards in Tommy Holmes and Sheldon Bressington who shook the hitherto pallid Wycombe attack into a roaring, deadly combination.

If the Wanderers had been heading Tottenham Hotspur at Wembley there could hardly have been a more electric atmosphere.

The famous Tooting Terrors became the Tooting Tatters as transformed Wycombe blazed goalwards. Seldom has Tooting's defence taken such a pulverising.

*Only out-of-this-world goal-keeping by Wally Pearson stood between the rampant Wycombe attack and double figures. He made superb saves from all the Wycombe forwards.*

But Tooting recovered some of their old glory in the last five minutes after Welsh ace Dave Roberts had scored an amazing goal. In this critical period Wycombe goalkeeper Ken Brown showed that he too could handle the ball confidently on the wickedly slippery pitch.

Gallantly though the Wycombe defence exceeded all expectations against the internationally famed Tooting attack, it was the home forwards who provided the astonishment.

**Holmes** — a tall long-legged Scot with a deceptively casual body swerve and stride—made Tooting defenders look foolish at times.

As for the burly, straight-for-goal Bressington on this form this policeman centre-forward is going to be as well known as Dixon of Dock Green to auto-graph-hunting Wycombe school-boys.

Although often beaten by pivot Brian Bennett, a potential England cap, the dashing Sheldon showed tremendous zest and punch and capped a fine debut with a vital goal.

## BAFFLED EMRYS

Little wonder that Paul Bates, who captained the side, and Len Worley played like men with a load of worry off their minds. They formed a dazzling right wing partnership, switching positions cunningly and taking it in turns to take the ball past baffled Emrys ab' Iorwerth.

As Steve Hyde was determined not to be left out of this cup trickery and ran rings round deputy full back Firmin, Tooting's woe was complete.

Backing up the forwards in constant first half raids were Dave Thomas, clearly destined for the heights, and John Beck, having his happiest game so far at left-half. John Fisher kept dangerous Mike Clay gnashing his teeth in frustration while converted full backs Dennis Atkins and Dave Worley are proving the best emergency men in the Isthmian League.

## NO STOPPING

The first half pattern was consistently Pearson versus the Wycombe forwards. The Wanderers might have led six-nil at the break against a lesser goalkeeper.

*But there was no stopping the 9th minute Bates goal which sent Wanderers ahead. After Worley had been tripped Atkins sent a free kick streaking like the Brighton Belle towards the Tooting net. Wing half Tony Stade stuck his face in the way and was knocked off his feet into an unconscious heap. The ball rebounded to Bates and was flashed back into goal.*

Tooting kept in the game until the 70th minute when Bressington took a Holmes pass, blithely ignored offside protests, and ran through the middle to score.

But until Roberts hit a 30 yards drive past the diving Brown, Tooting looked a hopeless, dejected side. Mustering their last ounces of energy they pinned Wycombe in their own half for the last five minutes and so nearly forced a soccer travesty of a replay.